



TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF THE YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

Patricia Michalak, MA
Youth Service Bureau Coordinator

DRAFT
YSB Advisory Minutes
September 11th, 2012
12:00 noon @ Mansfield Town Hall
Conf. Rm. B

Board Members

Present:

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair
Frank Perrotti, Assistant Chair, Resident
Patricia Michalak, YSB Coordinator
Kathy McNamara, YSB Social Worker
Kevin Grunwald, Human Services Director
Chuck Leavens, E O Smith Counselor
Candace Morell, MMS Vice Principal
Christine Lee, Director of STARR Program
Steven King, Resident State Trooper
Steven Martin, Graduate Social Work Intern
Eileen Griffin, LCSW Resident
Genevieve Rigler, E. O. Smith High School Student

I. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 12:03 PM by Chair, Ethel Mantzaris

II. Approval of minutes

- Meeting minutes from June 06, 2012 were accepted

III. Reports

- o Director's Report – Kevin Grunwald
 - Department of Human Services Quarterly report was distributed
 - Playground initiative is continuing, Mansfield's Advocates is helping to raise money to build a playground behind the Mansfield Community Center. They also need land from UConn, looking at a long term lease and a build date for Sept 2013

- September is National Senior Center Month, many activities, free classes at Senior Center new seniors all week.
- Barbara Winslow MSW Senior Center Case Worker resigned, we will be looking to fill that position.

○ Coordinator's Report – Patricia Michalak

Overview: YSB had an active summer which consisted of new intakes and ongoing counseling for multiple clients, many of which dealing with major losses to their immediate families. We had three families with children who suffered a loss of a parent. For two of the families this was the second parent the child or children lost, leaving them without parents. All of these deaths were sudden and traumatic including two suicides. We will continue involvement with these families, and support them in attending our Winter Grief Group series.

Multi-Family Group: The Multi- family group continued meetings with Dr. Haney throughout the summer. Assisted with two psychiatric emergency and hospitable admissions both families will now be continuing in Multi Family Group.

Psychological Services: We covered Mansfield family clients receiving psychological services during the month of August while the PhD students were on break.

Camperships: The Noah Farland Fund granted YSB a thousand dollars, enabling children to attend Mansfield Camp, Holiday Hill, Tolland 4-H, and Channel 3. Nine children participated in twelve weeks of summer camp.

Graduate Students: We have two new UConn Social Work graduate interns, Steven Martin and Gui Estes, both are case work students. Steven is a graduate of Eastern and Gui graduated from UCONN.

LEAP – All fourth grade COPE participants were invited to a school orientation event this summer to help transition to the Middle School.

Grandparent Raising Grandchildren Group: All grandparents were invited to CRT Generations Grandparents University for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. Twelve families participated including one of our Mansfield families. The program helped children see college as a realistic opportunity by providing a College Life experience. They all stayed 2 nights in the dorm had family time, workshops; BBQ's, games and fun.

Challenge: Successfully completed their 35th year, 16 students attended the week long adventure including rock climbing, canoeing and hiking. The challenge staff skillfully handled a family crisis of one of them campers.

IV. Old Business

- 25th anniversary for Grandparent's Raising Grandchildren Group was acknowledged in the Town Manager's Report at the last Town Council meeting.
- Perotti asked for an update on part-time social worker position for YSB, Michalak and Grunwald will be working on this initiative.

V. New Business

- Reviewed Advisory Board's Goals and Accomplishments
 - Eileen Griffin asked for clarification regarding collaboration with Willington, Ashford and Coventry Youth Service Bureau's.
 - Lee and other members agreed that it is important to support neighboring town's YSBs. She suggested we change goal regarding collaboration to read: "Support collaboration with Willington, Ashford and Coventry."
 - Perrotti suggested we change goal regarding psychiatric services to read: "explore additional funding"
- Viewed the Challenge Slideshow

VI. Other

- Chuck Leavens: Requested not using the term "at risk" when referring to students participating in the Challenge Program. Grunwald agreed to remove this from the Quarterly Report.

VII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m. October 9th, 2012 next meeting